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January 18, 2001

U. S. Food & Drug Administration  
Dockets Management Branch  
5630 Fishers LANE, Room 1061  
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Gentlemen:

Re: Docket #98P-0151/CP1

I am writing to strongly urge the Food & Drug Administration to grant PETITION 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of "downed" animals.

Animals who are too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain. In addition to posing an increased ~~risk~~ for bacterial contamination, there is evidence that some downed animals ~~can~~ be afflicted with a form of BSE (Mad Cow Disease), a disease which has been linked to a fatal human illness.

Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. It is impossible to move downed animals humanely, and they are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains -- an inhumane process which causes injuries and severe pain, ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.

Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place. Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship, and help to ensure that these animals are treated in a more humane manner.

Thank you for your consideration to this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

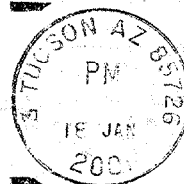
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